

MS/LED

# SHAKE YOURSELF AWAKE

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007,

**Ms. Led** return with their highly-anticipated new album, *Shake Yourself Awake*. With an impassioned political message, the album is an energetic and unapologetic call to action mixed with songs of personal struggle and triumph. Recorded at legendary London Bridge Studio and mixed and mastered by Grammy-winning producer, **Kramer** (Urge Overkill, Low, Galaxie 500), *Shake Yourself Awake* is Ms. Led's follow-up to 2004's politically charged and critically acclaimed *These Things We Say*.

Written over a span of two years, *Shake Yourself Awake* is singer/songwriter/guitarist **Lesli Wood's** strongest and most eclectic songwriting to date – varying from the punk rock energy of tracks like “New Agenda”, to the 60's girl group stylings of “Up to the Old Tricks”. Wood's lyrics are a fearless examination of social issues, personal vulnerability, and empowerment, backed with unmatched urgency from bassist, **Matt Menovcik**, guitarist **Peg Wood** and drummer, **Steph Hasselman**.

For Wood, the album is her most personal work, inspired by her own challenges and her battle with Multiple Sclerosis, while maintaining an active career in music and completing law school. “I have dealt with being told what I can and can't do on so many levels. Having MS, I was told that I wouldn't be able to continue playing

music,” says Wood. “I was told to slow down, rest more, maybe consider giving up parts of my life. We always put so many restrictions on ourselves. We make excuses about stability, money, relationships, careers... Who says you can't do what you want?”

Ms. Led's refusal to compromise – politically or personally – is evident in the band's passion and conviction throughout *Shake Yourself Awake*. In the call to action of “New Agenda” Wood sings, “We've got to educate, communicate, organize, criticize, demand to know why, unify, rectify.” And the self-assured lyrics of “Have it All” remind us, “Everyday is opportunity to make waves and everyday is your chance to try and make change.”

**Ms. Led's first two albums quickly sold out of their first pressings.** All the while, the band has maintained their DIY ethic and built a dedicated following. Often referred to as a “must-see live show,” Ms. Led have become recognized not only for their political edge but also for their catchy, even danceable, songs and their infectious energy and raw emotion.

The group has toured with such acts as **The Gossip**, **50 Foot Wave**, **The Avengers**, **The Thermals**, and **The Reputation** and has played such prestigious festivals as the



**Bumbershoot Festival, Ladyfest,** and the **Capitol Hill Block Party**. In support of *Shake Yourself Awake*, Ms. Led will bring their high-energy live show to the masses with a national tour in the summer.

2004's *These Things We Say* garnered rave reviews nationwide and was described by *Punk Planet* as “sharp-as-a-tack power pop that barely takes time to breathe.” Produced by **Martin Feveyear** (Mudhoney, Queens of the Stone Age), the album was voted one of the **Top Overall Albums of 2004 by KEXP** listeners, reached **#8 in the Top Northwest Albums of 2004**, and was included on the **Best of 2004** charts for the *Seattle Weekly*, *Three Imaginary Girls*, and *John in the Morning*.

## Contact

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## Discography (titles found under the name “Ms. Led”):

- 2007 *Shake Yourself Awake* (Fish the Cat Records)
- 2004 *These Things We Say* (Fish the Cat Records)
- 2002 *Afternoon In Central Park* (Fish the Cat Records)
- 2002 *3 Songs Under The Boot EP* (Fish the Cat Records)

## Discography (titles found under the name “lesliwood”):

- 2001 *Flying Sidekick* (A Benefit for Home Alive); features “This Is What We Get” (Broken Rekids)
- 2000 *Ms. Led* (Fish the Cat Records)
- 2000 *Many Miles Away* (A Police Tribute Album); features “King of Pain” (Solarmanite Records)
- 1999 *That Night* (Mog Records)

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## Press

“...sharp-as-a-tack power pop that barely takes time to breathe. Clichés aside, Ms. Led plays catchy, polished music that deals with politics, feminism, the Bush-ocracy, etc. in a straightforward manner that is as urgent in its message as it is in its delivery.” – **Punk Planet**

“The band goes for the ultra-quiet Contours breakdown but comes roaring back for one last hurrah, guitars wailing, drums falling about, and a generally good time had by all.” – **Pitchfork**

“This combo’s fourth release has a message, sure, but it’s also got a great beat, and you can dance to it.” – **The Advocate**

“[Ms. Led’s] songs are driven by taut guitar lines, rhythms that propel dancing feet and vocals that seethe with quiet intensity one moment, then suddenly ignite into barely controlled yowling the next.” – **Time Out New York**

“This very tight band with the slamming bassline will make you want to shake your booty. You’ll either dance, or you’ll hit the streets in riot gear. Either way, you’ll move your ass.” – **LesbianNation Magazine**

“The quartet flat-out sweats confidence, and that intangible can get its growing audience shaking without the faintest onstage suggestion. Ringleader Lesli Wood hammers out heartfelt lady-punk with the same brainy ferocity that got all the white belts turned compu-yuppies rightfully drooling over Kills Rock Stars so many years ago.” – **Seattle Weekly**

“These songs are so catchy, so fun, that it’s no wonder the band - whose members take on pseudonyms like Roxy and Bootsy - has raucous live shows where the fans sing along.” – **Delusions of Adequacy**

“It’s tricky to write songs about activism without sounding clichéd or preachy, but Ms. Led succeed by

paring calls to action with defiantly catchy rock riffs.” – **Venus Magazine**

“Wood tackles subjects that in the hands of a lesser musician would turn into tired and sentimental clichés, but Ms. Led’s leader is a surprising success... an addictive listen from start to finish.” – **Devil In The Woods**

“This is grrl-rock at its best, a more-than-capable line-up of fierce, powerful musicians who know what it means to rock, and demonstrate it... Equal parts punk rock and power-pop, the band screams along without losing a beat...” – **In Music We Trust**

“...the grrl power you wanted Gwen Stefani to become and the rock you want Sahara Hotnights to be... not only did every song have me nodding my head infectiously to their melodious chorus’ and screamin’ chants, the contemptuous manner in which Roxy spits her lyrics makes it so fuckin’ punk rock.” – **Impose Magazine**

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